

Message Text

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42

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2468

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2104

USIA FOR IWE/GAWRONSKI

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: NEW TEAM TAKES OVER "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS"

REF: LISBON 2102

1. GOP HAS NAMED NEW TEAM TO TAKE OVER PORTUGAL'S LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER, MORNING DIARIO DE NOTICIAS. NEW DIRECTOR IS LUIS DE BARROS, FORMER HEAD OF JOURNALISTS' UNION, FORMERLY ON EDITORIAL STAFF OF LIBERAL WEEKLY "EXPRESSO," FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF BIWEEKLY MAGAZINE "TEMPO ECONOMICO," AND MOST RECENTLY, ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION IN SECOND AND THIRD PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENTS. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IS JOSE SARAMAGO, WRITER, POET AND POLITICAL COMMENTATOR WHO
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WAS EDITORIAL WRITER FOR AFTERNOON "DIARIO DE LISBOA" IN

1972-73.

2. NEW TEAM'S APPROACH WAS OUTLINED IN APRIL 11 SIGNED FRONT PAGE POLICY STATEMENT. TEAM WILL SEEK TO MAKE OF DIARIO "RESPONSIBLE" CONTRIBUTOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALIST SOCIETY IN PORTUGAL. NEWSPAPER' VOCATION WILL BE THAT OF SERVING PORTUGUESE PEOPLE AND TRUTH, CRITICIZING EVEN THE GOVERNMENT WHEN NECESSARY.

3. COMMENT: SOCIALISTS HAVE LAUNCHED COORDINATED ATTACK AGAINST ALLEGED COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER NEWS MEDIA OUTLETS (REFTEL). EMBASSY FILES CONFIRM SARAMAGO'S PAST COMMUNIST AFFILIATIONS (HE HAS BEEN AN EDITOR OF COMMUNIST PAPER "AVANTE). IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR CUNHA REGO CHARGED THAT DE BARROS WAS ALSO A COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER. INFO AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY SUGGESTS, HOWEVER, THAT DE BARROS IS WELL QUALIFIED AND RESPECTED PROFESSIONAL (RARITY IN PORTUGAL) AND, IN TERMS POLITICAL OUTLOOK, A MODERATE.
CARLUCCI

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